(b) to (d) Unit I at Ramagundam had to be taken out during 1984-85 for a total of 50 days due to grid restrictions. At Singrauli the units are being taken out one by one for rectification work on their generator stators by BHEL. A time bound programme to rectify all the generator stators is being implemented.

Effects of Exposure of Bhopal Gas Victims to Thiocynates

*40. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a medical survey of the Bhopal victims recently conducted by a team of doctors from Kem Hospital, Bombay, showed a very high level of thiocyanates in the sub-soil take and filtered water and their continued exposure to thiocyanates causes adverse functioning of the body organs, thus nullifying the effect of the treatment being given to gas victims, and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure decontamination of potable water and also to prevent this continuous medical hazard to the people of Bhopal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the observations of a group of doctors about the existence of a high level of thiocynate in the water-level of Bhopal and about the possible health hazards arising out of the continuing exposure of the population to such high levels of thiocyanate.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that they have very carefully checked up and analysed the water-samples in Bhopal. The analysis indicates that the thiocyanate leve in the tap-waters and lake-waters in Bhopal is well within the safe limits. As such the Question of taking any special decontamination measures does not arise.

Encroachment of Railway Land

119. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vast areas of railway land have been encroched in Rjkot, Surendranagar, Wankaner, Jamnagar in Sourashtra; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) The Government is aware that certain small pockets consisting of 0.227 hectares of land have been encroached upon in Rajkot, Surendranagar, Wankaner and Jamnagar in Saurashtra. The encroachments are on land released on conversion of the Railway line from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge on Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar sections.

(b) Eviction proceedings have been instituted in all cases. In some cases, however, parties have gone to the Court and have brought stay order. These cases are also being contested.

National awards to rail drivers and guards

120. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) What are the details of national awards so far given to train drivers, guards and other railway personnel whose prompt and brave actions averted major accidents in railways;

(b) whether his Ministry has ever recommended such names to the appropriate authorities for the grant of national awards; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the